



148TH

FIGHTER WING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

ANNUAL REPORT
2010



148TH FIGHTER WING VISION

Expect, Provide and Be the Best!



148TH FIGHTER WING MISSION

Provide Ready Airmen to defeat America's Enemies and Rapidly Respond to State and Community Needs.



THE FEDERAL MISSION

The Minnesota Air National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances).



THE STATE MISSION

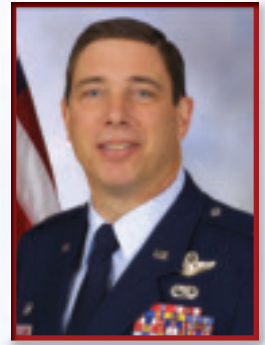
When Minnesota Air National Guard units are not mobilized or under federal control, they report to the governor of Minnesota, supervised by the Adjutant General. Under state law, the Minnesota Air National Guard provides protection of life, property and preserves peace, order and public safety.



FROM THE COMMANDER

“We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn. Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service.”

Earl Nightingale



2010 marked a historical transition for the Bulldogs. We began the year flying the oldest F-16 still in combat, the Block 25. We closed the year in command of the newest, most capable Viper in the U.S. Air Force inventory – the Block 50. This transition occurred for a number of reasons: pivotal support from our community, backing from our local, state and national representatives, and of course the reliable, exemplary performance from the Airmen of the 148th Fighter Wing.

As in years past, we began 2010 with 148th Airmen in combat. The security forces squadron safely returned in May, and our civil engineering squadron came home in June. We added to our ever-expanding trophy case with another *Air Force Outstanding Unit Award*. The support from our elected leaders, surrounding communities and employers was highlighted when Gov. Tim Pawlenty declared Duluth a “Yellow Ribbon City.”

Although in conversion, inspections remained prevalent on our 2010 calendar. In April, we impressed the inspectors during our Environmental & Occupational Health Evaluation. The Operations Group earned an “Outstanding” on the 1st Air Force Stan/Eval inspection. The inspectors returned in May and June for an Alert Force Evaluation, which we completed with zero discrepancies! The year ended with a Unit Compliance Inspection. For the 4th time in 5 years, the mighty Bulldogs proved to the ACC IG Team that we are the Gold Standard the rest of the Guard will benchmark against.

In October, Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, stopped by to visit the Bulldogs. At the annual Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce dinner, he challenged us to accept the role of an active associate unit and welcome active duty Airmen into our wing. He also emphasized the reason we are flying Block 50's today: *“From the time that the Air National Guard started flying out of the airport ... it has enjoyed a long-standing tradition of excellence. This unit didn't get its history by sitting idly by and watching time go by. It made its own history.”*

The newest, most capable F-16's now park on our ramp. The IG has validated our performance and compliance. We enjoy phenomenal community support. And the 4 star commander of the National Guard has directed our future. The Bulldogs answer every call, get the job done without complaint, and do it with a culture of compliance and integrity. Our past efforts have indeed been rewarded.

FRANK STOKES, Colonel, MN ANG
Wing Commander



THE FLYING MISSION

The 148th Fighter Wing flies the Block 50 F-16, the newest F-16 in the U.S. Air Force fleet. The Bulldogs perform Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA), protecting America's skies 24-hours a day. The 148th FW is one of only two Air National Guard Wings tasked to Suppression & Destruction of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD/DEAD) support for our nation.



2010 DEPLOYMENTS

- 151 Personnel/11 Countries

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM/NEW DAWN

- Balad Air Base, Iraq
- Baghdad International Airport, Iraq

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Eskan Village Saudi Arabia; Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait; Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan; Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Kabul, Afghanistan; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Moron Air Force Base, Spain; Rota, Spain; Aviano, Italy; Hurlburt Field, Florida; England; Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.



STATE ACTIVE DUTY

Fargo/Moorhead Area Floods



2010 HIGHLIGHTS

- Conversion from Block 25 to Block 50 F-16
- Performed 24/7 home station Air Sovereignty Alert mission during major conversion
- Chief Master Sgt. Michael Layman named Command Chief
- Civil engineering squadron deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan for 6-months
- Security forces squadron deployed to Southwest Asia for 6-months
- Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, was the key note speaker at the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner
- Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, Senior Enlisted Leader for the National Guard, visited the 148th

2010 AWARDS

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (7th award)
- Air National Guard Director of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award
- Air National Guard Security Forces Senior NCO of the Year
- Air National Guard Fire Fighter of the Year
- National Guard Bureau Photojournalism Award
- 1st Air Force First Sergeant of the Year
- Certified by the National Weather Service as a Storm Ready Community



148TH FIGHTER WING GETS



Fighter pilot Lt. Col. Reed Bowman was all smiles when the first F-16 Block 50 landed at the Duluth Air National Guard (ANG) Base April 27, 2010.

“You don’t believe it till they’re sitting on the ramp in front of you and you’re ready to start work on them and we’re there today,” said Bowman, 148th Fighter Wing (FW) Conversion Officer. “This has been in motion for many, many months and the work to get us into this position took years.”

The Block 50 aircraft were transferred from the 22nd Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, replacing the 148th’s current Block 25 F-16s. Past and present members of the unit, friends and family, along with state and local officials celebrated the arrival of the new aircraft during a ceremony at the Duluth Air National Guard Base on Friday, April 30, 2010.

“Our leadership, national, state and local, as well as the support we get from the community is the reason we’re here. If nothing happened and those forces didn’t rise up we would be shutting the doors,” said Col. Frank Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander.

The 148th Fighter Wing is the first Air National Guard Wing to convert to the Block 50 from the active duty Air Force, and one of only two guard units in the country to fly them.

In 2005, the 148th faced the loss of its fleet, and potentially hundreds of jobs, when the Pentagon recommended the unit’s Block 25 F-16s be retired as part of the Air Force Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Instead, after years of hard work and support from state and national politicians, along with local community groups and leaders, the unit was awarded a new mission along with new aircraft providing the wing ready capabilities well into the future.

“No base is more deserving of these planes than this base, Duluth and the 148th. Time and time again, they’ve



NEW WINGS

won awards because they're one of the best bases in the nation. They may be small but they're mighty and we wanted to make sure they got these planes," said U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

The Block 50 aircraft boasts an improved engine with more thrust as well as enhancements to the aircraft structure. It also includes a greater computer capacity for future upgrades and improvements.

"Our previous airplane was like you bought a computer and just couldn't upgrade it anymore," said Bowman. "These new jets have almost limitless upgrade capability to the point where they'll be the second most capable aircraft we have in our inventory behind the F-22 until the F-35 comes online."

"Today, we are at the top of all U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter wings," said Stokes. "It's a good day to be a Bulldog."



L GUARD





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In 2010, 148th members devoted nearly 6,000 hours of support to our local community. Members participated in parades, blood drives, fundraisers, environmental support, and were mentors and community board members. Some examples include:

- 21 F-16 fly-overs to include the Minnesota Twins Opening Day
- Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
- John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon
- Thanksgiving Day Buffet
- Parades
- Blood Drives
- Volunteer Fire Fighters
- Combined Federal Campaign (\$14,200)

YELLOW RIBBON COMMUNITY

- Active participant in Duluth becoming a Yellow Ribbon City
- Houses the State Yellow Ribbon Coordinator
- Continuous Reintegration programs and activities



OTHER MISSIONS

- The 148th Fire Department provides 24-hour operations as the sole crash and rescue force for the Duluth International Airport
 - 304 calls, 5 mutual aid responses and 16 community training events
- The 148th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) identifies and disposes of explosives found within the local area, providing the only source of this capability in the region
 - 16 responses in Minnesota and Wisconsin
- The 148th Communications Squadron operates one of two Joint Communication Platforms (JCP) in the state, providing military and civilian personnel with Internet, radio, telephone, voice and data transfer and power



FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Guard Family Network consists of all 148th members, significant others, retirees, family members and friends of 148th members.

Family Programs include:

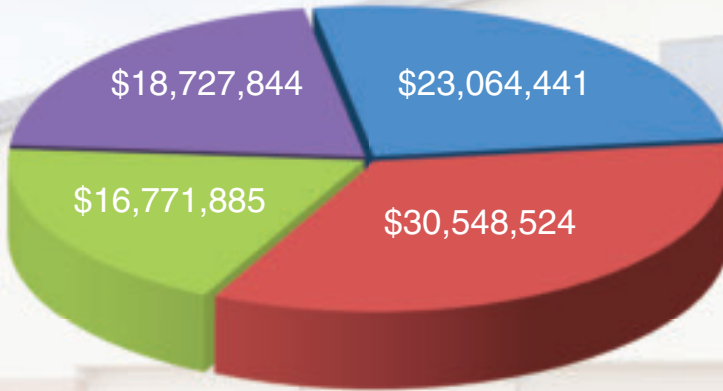
- Inter service family assistance committee (ISFAC)
- Strong Bonds Weekends for Military Couples
- National Guard youth and teen camps
- Military child care in your neighborhood
- Key readiness volunteers

Recognized by the Department of Defense as the Best Reserve Component Family Program



148TH ECONOMIC IMPACT – FISCAL YEAR 2010 –

\$89.1 Million



■ CIVILIAN PAY

■ OPERATING EXPENDITURES

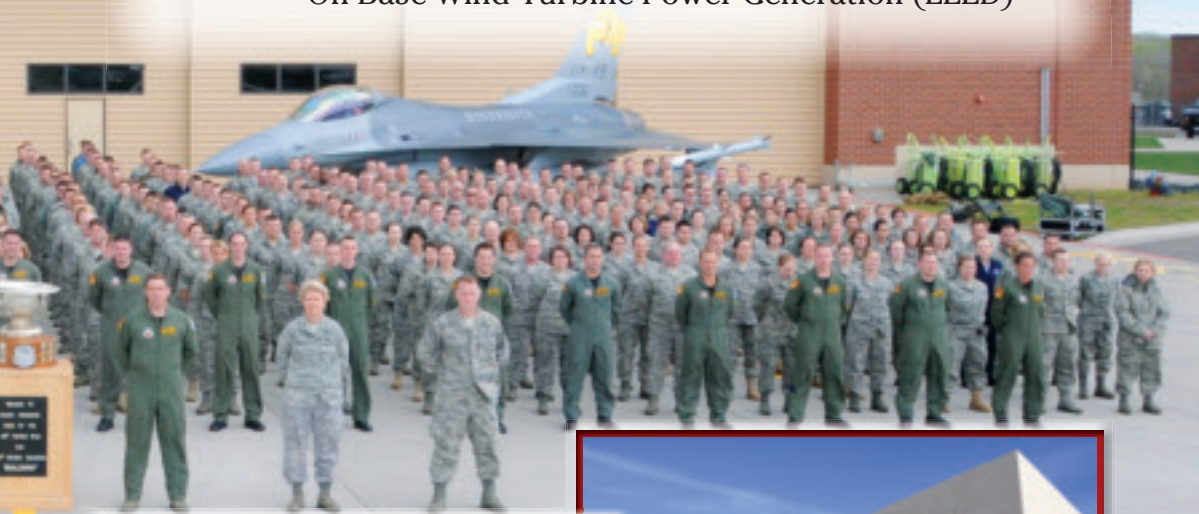
■ MILITARY PAY

■ INDIRECT JOBS CREATED



FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Maintain Block 50 SEAD Mission with Alert
 - Increase from 15 to 18 Primary Assigned Aircraft
 - Prepare for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter
- Become an Active Associate Wing
 - Bring active duty aircraft and Airmen to Duluth
 - Benefits our nation
 - Increases capability to deploy
 - Draws on 148th experience levels
 - Saves Department of Defense significant costs
- Continue Facility Upgrades
 - Fuel Storage Facility
 - Weapons Load Training Facility
 - F-16 Mission Training Center (MTC Simulators)
 - On-Base Wind Turbine Power Generation (LEED)





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